

97-03

Awesome God

Learning to Respect the Complexity of God

1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. 6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and behind. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: 11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (NIV)

1. Bigger Thoughts (vv.1-3)

A. Of His _____

B. Of His _____

2. Better Worship (vv.4-11)

A. More _____

B. More _____

C. More _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in the lobby c

1. Our passage is one of many in the Bible that remind us of the immensity of God. The possibilities of exploring the depth of God's character is boundless and yet so often we settle into patterns of thinking about God that are less than deep. How would you rate your own progress in knowing *more* about God in the past year or so? Describe your progress.

What things would you say inhibit your quest to expand your knowledge and understanding of God?

What things are helpful?

2. God is powerful. Our passage illustrates his complete and sovereign power! What things in your life don't reflect a confidence in that truth?
3. God is holy. He is absolutely perfect and wholly different than his creation. He is separated in his perfection and in our passage it is the primary characteristic of God that the four living creatures are interested in underscoring. Why do you think this is the main thing about of God that the angels proclaim? (See also Isaiah 6:2.)

What practical implications does that have for people who worship him?

4. Would you say that you "respect" God? After studying our passage, what would you say it means to respect *the complexity* God?
5. When and where can a Christian worship? Explain.

When is worship meaningful worship?

What will you do to be a more effective worshipper this week?